The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information as will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

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AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

U. S. STEEL CORPORATION'S ANTI-UNION POLICY UNCOVERED

In his recent book on the "Labor Policy of the United States Steel Corporation," Dr. Charles A. Gulick, Jr., instructor of economics in Columbia University, a New York City, reaches the conclusion that the corporation deliberately uses its welfare work to combat trade unism.

After declaring that the corporation "refuses" the "legitimate claim of workmen to bargain collectively concerning wages, hours, and conditions of work," Dr. Gulick takes up the concern's housing plan, pension system, and employe stock ownership scheme as typical welfare work used against labor organization.

"Since housing programs furnish ideal weapons for crushing organization campaigns," declares Dr. Gulick, "in localities where a considerable portion of the corporation's employes live in company houses these employes can not be as independent as if they were living in their own homes.

"Even more obviously available for fighting unions and for limiting independence and initiative is the stock subscription plan.

"The buyer gains most, not by retaining his shares permanently, but by holding them no more than five full years during which he receives extra dividends and accumulates an interest in the fund created by the forfeits of some subscribers to qualify for the extra dividends.

"In order to qualify the subscriber must have been 'continuously in the employ' of the corporation or one of its subsidiaries in the year preceding the payment of the extra dividend and must have 'shown a proper interest in its welfare and progress,' or, as otherwise stated in the 1909 circular, must exhibit 'a letter from a proper official showing that he has worked to promote the best interests of the company.'

"It is difficult for anyone who has studied the history of the corporation to believe that such a letter would be given to a man who was in any way 'contaminated' with unionism.

"It is even more difficult for anyone to study this particular scheme without realizing that it is something more than a pure stock-owning proposition.

"Permanent retention of the stock is not encouraged; on the contrary, there is a high premium on the policy of rapid turnover of the shares.

"But this rapid turnover of shares is planned to result in a small but regularly rapid turnover of men; on the contrary again, it is admirably calculated to hold men in the employ of the corporation and to make them less willing to take any action the corporation officials are likely to construe as not conducive to the 'welfare and progress' of the corporation.

"The pension system, likewise, obviously exercises a restraining influence upon the workmen's initiative and independence.

"It will be recalled that in addition to other limitations the administrators of the system possess the power to withhold or terminate pensions in case of 'misconduct' or any other cause deemed sufficient.

"Since men were regularly discharged for joining a union, prospective pensioners were also likely to hesitate a long time before prejudicing their chances for a pension by taking any action which might be disapproved by the officials."

FOES OF CHILD LABOR BAN ARE NOT SINCERE

Washington, May 2.—The people who oppose the federal child labor amendment because of their alleged preference for state child labor legislation are not sincere in their views, according to Rev. John R. Ryan, D. D., professor of moral theology and industrial ethics at the Catholic University, in an article in the Catholic Charities Review.

"Judging by the protestations of the states which are backward in the matter of child labor legislation," says Dr. Ryan, "they would be eager to strengthen their laws on this subject during the legislative sessions which were held during the present year.

"All these legislatures rejected the proposed federal amendment.

"Did any of them take the opportunity of improving their child labor laws and thus showing that they were in earnest when they declared that they did not need federal regulation? Only one of them did so, and it left more undone than it accomplished.

"Therefore the recent history and the present attitude of the States which have enacted child labor regulation provide no adequate basis for the hope that they will deal adequately with the evil in the absence of federal legislation.

"Will the active opponents of the child labor amendment, especially the journalists, lawyers, industrialists and professional defenders of the Constitution, do anything to make good by deeds their brave words in favor of effective regulation by the states?

"That remains to be seen.

"The answer depends upon themselves.

"So far as the public knows, none of these opponents has yet taken any steps in that direction."

EMPLOYERS USE LOCK-OUT

Berlin, Germany, May 2.—Metal manufacturers have locked out 7,000 employes who struck for wage increases.

Copenhagen, Denmark, May 2.—Denmark employers have locked out an additional 65,000 employes in their struggle with organized labor, bringing the total number of locked-out workers up to 125,000. Further lockouts threaten further reprisals along this line.

COAL MINERS DEFEAT WAGE REDUCTIONS

Paris, France, May 2.—French coal miners are winning their struggle to compel mine owners to resort to other methods than wage reductions to reduce production costs.

The mine workers are also determined that they will compel the mine owners to raise wages at the same time as much as the profiteers boost the cost of living.

Some time ago the mine owners expressed a determination to reduce production costs during 1925. But the miners refused to accept this because of the thorough organization of the mine workers wage increases have been practically instead of wage reductions being imposed.

Coal mine owners now realize their inability to force down wages to reduce production costs or to prevent wage increases when living costs rise. They are therefore trying other methods to meet the emergency. For this purpose there is a tendency to construct more coke ovens at the mines. Several large companies have also installed equipment for the manufacture of synthetic ammonia by utilizing the gas from the coke ovens. It is thought that the better utilization of the coal will bring about economies to offset rising labor costs.

MEAT PRICES GOING UP, WATCH YOUR WAGES

Washington, May 2.—Wage earners of America will be compelled to pay constantly increasing prices for beef product during the next six years if the predictions of the economists of the U. S. department of agriculture relative a shortage in beef cattle are reliable. According to the department's figures beef cattle have declined during the past year from 41,720,000 to 39,609,000, a decrease of more than 2,000,000 head.

"All signs indicate that the beef cattle industry is headed toward lower production and rising prices," declares the department. "If the present cycle runs true to form the general trend of cattle prices should be upward for six or eight years."

Higher prices for beef cattle due to the shortage announced by the department will inevitably be reflected in boosted retail prices to the consumer.

WHO WILL GET THE SAVINGS FROM ELIMINATION OF INDUSTRIAL WASTE?

Washington, May 2.—Organized employers and engineering societies, with the assistance of the U. S. department of commerce, are engaged in a nation-wide campaign to eliminate industrial waste.

It is maintained that in some way the savings effected by the elimination will largely be reflected in lower prices to the consumers and higher wages for the workers.

Some critics have pointed out as an illustration of this theory. It is claimed that during the last three years there has been an increase in freight handled accompanied with no material advance in operating expenses, slight advance in rates and occasionally a small increase in wages.

The truth is that in the railroad industry the major portion of this so-called saving has been used by railroad directors to pay dividends on watered railroad stock.

The Southern Railway on May 1, 1924, put its 1,200,000 shares of common stock on a 5 per cent basis. This dividend absorbs $6,000,000 per annum of the economies resulting from more efficient operation. Many other railroads have made a similar disposition of their economies at Wall Street authorities tell us that more common stock issues are scheduled to go on a dividend basis within the near future.

In fact, the existence of hundreds of millions of shares of common stock in the hands of investors and speculators, all clamoring for a "return" on their property, is the greatest obstacle to either workers or consumers benefiting from the economies in question.

An outstanding illustration of the difficulties that the wage earners and consumers have to meet in realizing any of the savings due to the elimination of industrial waste is afforded by the recent financing of the Dodge Motor Company by Wall Street interests.

The promoters paid for the company by selling $75,000,000 worth of bonds and 850,000 shares of preferred 7 per cent stock at par, a total of $160,000,000. With each share of preferred stock, the promoters gave a bonus of one share of common stock and kept 500,000 shares of common stock for themselves. There are consequently 1,350,000 shares of common stock outstanding which at present are not on a dividend basis.

For years to come every effort of the management of the Dodge concern will be consecrated to creating a surplus that will entitle it to pay dividends on this common stock.

Unless they are subjected to influence paternalistic enough to overcome their veneration for the "rights" of the common stock owners, the profits of the Dodge Motor Company will use the "savings" resulting from the elimination of industrial waste in their plants to create a market which shorten hours or reduce prices, but to screw out profits large enough to give a market value to the mass of common stock that represent nothing but water. The same reasoning applies to every other corporation loaded up with common stock.

Organized labor has some of this influence to use in the interests of the workers. To get any portion of the economies resulting from the savings on waste will require vigorous use of it.

WORKERS OPPOSE IMMIGRATION SCHEME

Sydney, Australia, May 2.—Australian organized labor has developed an active opposition to the agreement entered into between the British and Australian governments to flood Australia with British emigrants, largely recruited from Great Britain's million and a half of out-of-workers.

The Australian government proposes to float a $4,000,000 pound immigration loan to finance the scheme.

There are already thousands of unemployed in Australia.

Labor claims the conspiracy is a joint one between British capitalists, who regard their security as menaced by the continued existence of large masses of unemployed workers, and Australian employers ready to go to any extremity to break up trade union standards of living.

The Australian Worker charges that under the immigration agreement "continuous shiploads of immigrants are being emptied upon our coasts and into the mouths of those who have sold themselves to battle with a country where already there are many thousands unable to obtain a living through no fault of their own."

"Unless the scheme is checked," continues the Worker, "the organization of Australian workers must inevitably be trampled down, and the evil of unemployment intensified. The British movement is resolved that so long as we have unemployed, state-aided immigration must be stopped."

BAKERS OPPOSE NIGHT WORK; BOSSES URGE 3-SHIFT SYSTEM

Geneva, Switzerland, May 2.—Journeymen bakers and master bakers are lining up in Europe for a straight-out fight on the question of abolishing night work in bakeries, according to information made public by the international labor office.

The sixth session of the International Labor Conference held at Geneva in 1924 approved a draft treaty for the abolition of night work in bakeries, to be submitted to the governments affiliated with the office, for amendment. The amendments will be considered by the 1925 session of the conference.

In the meantime bakery employes and master bakers have been taking a definite action for and against the treaty.

The Bureau of the International Federation of Trade Unions declares that "it considers it necessary for the workers' movement in general to urge workers' cooperative societies to apply, in all cases where they do not already apply it, a system of work, the result of which will be to abolish night work in bakeries and urges the trade union movement to conduct an energetic campaign in favor of the adoption of the draft convention soon to be considered by the International Labor Conference.

The recent third international congress of the Journeymen Bakers, held in Stuttgart, and attended by representatives from all the important journeymen bakers' unions of the world, was a unit in favor of the abolition of the three-shift system.

The employers, however, oppose abolition of night work. The international conference of employing bakers' organizations had at first condemned the three-shift system and demanded the right to apply it in the baking industry.

The French master bakers oppose the abolition of night work on the ground that it would increase operating expenses.

The paragraph in the treaty to be considered by the International Labor Conference abolishing night work declares that "the making of bread, pastry or other flour confectionery during night is forbidden" with certain inconsequential exceptions.

WASHINGTON FEDERATION OF LABOR LISTS ACHIEVEMENTS IN 22 YEARS

Seattle, Wash., May 2.—Over $25,000,000 has been paid to injured workers and in pensions to widows and orphans under the Washington compensation law since its enactment in 1911, declares the Washington State Federation of Labor in an account of the Federation's achievements since its organization in 1902. The law was enacted through the efforts of the State Federation.

Among the other legislative accomplishments of the State Federation are included: eight-hour day on public work; initiative, referendum and recall; day labor on public work; anti-blacklisting law; creation of a state labor bureau; state child labor law; sanitary law for bake shops; labor day a legal holiday; public schools; anti-injunction law; eight-hour law for miners; minimum wage law for women and minors; eight-hour law for women; free text books in schools and colleges; equal pay for school teachers regardless of sex, and payment of wages in lawful money.

Among the hostile legislation defeated the Federation includes bills to repeal the eight-hour law on public work, women's eight-hour law, mothers' pension law, full crew law, a measure proposing compulsory arbitration, a bill providing for company unions, and a number of anti-picking bills.

During the last five years the State Labor Bureau has collected approximately $600,000 in wages, an average of $121,000 per year, a large portion of which would have been lost to the wage owners had not this agency intervened.

As a part of its educational work since its organization, the Federation has distributed 634,000 pieces of literature. In June, 1924, the Washington State Labor News was established as the official organ of the Federation.

MASARYK RECIPIENT OF WORKERS' TRIBUTE

Prague, Czechoslovakia, May 2.—The efforts of President Masaryk of the republic of Czechoslovakia in the cause of social justice, and the influential role he has played for the establishment of the eight-hour day, were the subject of tributes of friendship on the occasion of his seventy-fifth birthday.

President Masaryk founded the workers' academy in Prague in 1895, which has since become the main center of workers' education in the republic.

It was due to his efforts that Czechoslovakia was the first European state to ratify the Washington eight-hour convention and the first act signed by him as president of the republic was the eight-hour-day law, which was passed in 1918.

President Masaryk holds that because the eight-hour day enables the workers to reach a higher level of culture, and gives them more leisure for development of mind and spirit, it is one of the foundations of democracy.

RAILROADS MORTGAGE INCREASED TWO BILLION

Washington, May 2.—The Interstate Commerce Commission, on the first of December 31, 1924, authorized the issuance of $1,795,027,403 of new railroad securities.

Of this 7 per cent the interest and dividend charge on these securities will be over $107,000,000 annually.

The necessity of meeting this charge will be used by the railroad owners as added argument for increased rates for railroad employes and freight and passenger reductions for the public.

WAGE INCREASE WON

The Hague, Holland, May 2.—Clothing industry workers have recently secured a 6 per cent wage increase and a similar increase is forthcoming in the brick industry. Painters and masons are on strike for wage increases.

WORKERS WIN NEW COST-OF-LIVING INDEX

Berlin, Germany, May 2.—Organized labor of Germany has won a victory in its contest with the government over the cost-of-living index.

Wage rates are readjusted according to cost-of-living data compiled by government bureaus. Organized labor claimed that the old index victimized them in a number of ways and favored the employers and demanded that it be reconstructed to afford a more accurate basis for wage negotiations. The new cost-of-living index is 8 per cent higher than the previous one and will materially assist wage increase demands.

Housing capitalists have recently boosted rentals and additional increases are predicted during the next few months. With the assistance of the new index the workers will be able to reflect these and other cost-of-living increases in new wage rates.

STATE STRIKE INSURANCE

Montevideo, Uruguay, May 2.—The state insurance bank of Uruguay has begun to offer insurance policies at a low premium against damages arising from strikes and other public disturbances. The bank is a government institution with a monopoly of the insurance business. Hitherto this form of insurance has been unknown in Uruguay.

EVICTION OF STRIKERS BLOCKED IN WEST VA.

Charleston, W. Va., May 2.—Governor Gore has notified West Virginia coal operators that hereafter evictions of strikers from coal company houses must be in conformity with the law.

It has been the practice of coal operators, with the connivance of local authorities, to evict strikers on a few days' notice to vacate or without any notice in some instances. Coal companies in Ohio and Marshall counties have recently resorted to this practice.

The state law requires a full calendar month's notice to vacate before eviction can legally take place. Governor Gore's order prescribes that hereafter the coal companies must comply with the law.

The governor also assures strike leaders that the right of a trial by jury will be guaranteed in all eviction cases.

RAIL OWNERS PROSPER

Washington, May 2.—The railroads of the United States paid dividends in 1923 on 62 per cent of the capital stock, the security owners receiving $287,513,229. The average rate was 2.99 per cent.

An attempt is made to explain and defend this high return by the statement that if dividends paid were spread over the 28 per cent of the stock on the roads that did not pay dividends, the average rate would be but 4.52 per cent.

In this way railroad interests undertake to create the impression that when a few railroad promoters organized into a corporation issued watered stock, the public is thereby obligated to pay them a return on a lot of securities the total cost of which to the promoters was the printer's bill.

2,638 COKE WORKERS KILLED OR INJURED

Washington, May 2.—Forty-five coke oven employes were killed and 2,593 injured in coke oven accidents in the United States during 1923, according to figures made public by the United States bureau of mines.

GERMAN WORKERS FIGHT FOR 8 HOURS

Berlin, Germany, May 2.—The general confederation of the German trade unions is continuing its vigorous fight for the eight-hour day.

Early in the year, yielding to the insistent demands of organized labor, the government applied the three-shift system in blast furnaces and coke works, and extended rolling mills and Bessemer and Thomas converters.

To whip the reactionary government into line the international federation of metal workers called a conference at Cologne.

"The eight-hour day," declared the conference, "is not only of the utmost cultural importance to the workers, but also conforms to the necessities of modern economic development, which demand the peaceful collaboration of all social classes in order to make good the losses engendered by the World War."

The conference condemned the German minister of labor for limiting the eight-hour decree to blast furnaces and coke works, disregarding the large-scale industrial industrialists for their opposition to eight hours, and insisted that the eight-hour day shall be applied to the entire industry.

"The best guarantee for the reintroduction and strengthening of the eight-hour day in all countries," concludes the conference resolution, "is the existence of strong workers' organizations dominated by the spirit of fraternal co-operation."

The conference resolution of the iron and steel industry opposes the eight-hour day because of the "disastrous consequences for a reduction of the hours of work" and the "considerable losses" sustained for some time by their plants.

On the contrary, the central committee of the general confederation of German trade unions, protests against the delay of the government in the legal reintroduction of the eight-hour day, which, the committee says, "is disastrous not only to the working class, but also for the authority of Germany in the civilized world."

Should the German government persist in its opposition to the reintroduction of the eight-hour day, organized labor declares the general confederation of German trade unions will submitted to a referendum vote of the people in accordance with the constitution of Germany.

COAL BARONS' THUG HEADED FOR PRISON

Richmond, Va., May 2.—The federal court of appeals has upheld the conviction of Chafin Chafin, coal operator, gunman, who was convicted of bootlegging by the district federal court at Huntington, West Virginia, on charges of conspiring, while sheriff of Logan county, with a saloon keeper "to violate the national prohibition act by making and carrying into effect an agreement to open and maintain a place for the sale of intoxicating liquors."

Federal Judge McClintic sentenced Chafin to serve two years in Atlanta and fined him $10,000.

During his career Chafin conducted the notorious campaign of United Mine Workers of America. Aided by an army of gunmen, and unlimited backing by coal-mine operators, Chafin inaugurated a reign of terror in that section of West Virginia that made life miserable for organized workers. His rulership was so complete that no state official challenged his violation of every law that stood in his way to smash the miners' union. His end came, however, when he used his office as sheriff to violate the national prohibition act.

Since this gunman has been debarred from his privileges as a deputized, law and order is being established in Logan county.

UNION WILL AUDIT EMPLOYER'S BOOKS

Copenhagen, Denmark, May 2.—An advanced form of employe representation in management has been obtained by a trade union in the limestone industry.

According to the agreement the union is authorized to examine the employer's books and to appoint its own auditor. This stipulation is made in order that employes may secure accurate information as to the financial condition of the concern's business for use in negotiations concerning wages and hours and other labor conditions.

SPRINGFIELD UNIONS HAVE 10,000 MEMBERS

Springfield, Mass., May 2.—There are 10,000 organizations with an aggregate membership of over 10,000 affiliated with the Springfield central labor union, according to official figures made public by the organization.

The 10,000 members with their families are said to comprise the majority of Springfield. The union funds amount to more than a quarter of a million dollars. The unions with an aggregate membership of over 10,000 annually. The average daily wage is in excess of $6.00.

The history of the Springfield Central Labor Union dates back to the strike of 1890, at that time there were but seven unions of any consequence in Springfield. The total membership of unions was small and the labor organization, and the Springfield Central Labor Union was placed on its feet.

8,534 METAL WORKERS KILLED OR INJURED

Washington, May 2.—Fifty-eight men were killed and 8,476 injured in accidents in the metal mines of the United States during 1922, according to figures made public by the United States bureau of mines.

AWAKE IN VANCOUVER

Vancouver, British Columbia, May 2.—Trade unionists are conducting an organizing campaign in this city and vicinity. Mill and factory workers have organized, as have the shingle weavers of New Westminster.

COMMUNISTS SEEK TO DESTROY TRADE UNIONS FROM WITHIN

London, England, May 2.—"The Russians make no secrets of their intention to use the British trade unions as a catspaw in the spread of communist principles," declares the Manchester Guardian in commenting on the London "labor unity" conference between representatives of the British Trade Union Congress and the All-Russian Council of trade unions.

They have decided that the best plan of campaign is not to create separate unions on avowedly communist lines, but to corrupt the trade unions from within," continues the Guardian.

"The question is whether the British trade unionists are going to fall into the trap.

"The Russians have systematized their theories of propaganda. Communism and revolution are not to be advocated directly. They are to come as the automatic sequel to an intensified struggle between capital and labor.

It does not much matter to them how the existing system is brought to an end or made unworkable. But it is done much more effectively, they think, by setting up impossible wage demands, by constant strikes or by the general fomentation of discord than by the direct preaching of the class war or by obviously futile attempts at violence.

"Hence we see the communist propaganda in this country directed not toward the advocacy of communism as such—the number of avowed communists is negligible—but toward fostering left wing movements within the unions."

The "unity" conference closed with the formation of a joint advisory council to promote cooperation between the British and Russian movements and an agreement to resort to joint efforts to secure an unconditional immediate conference of the Amsterdam trade union international, with representatives of the Russian trade unions.

The overwhelming majority of the general council of the Amsterdam International is opposed to any compromise with the revolutionary and subversive principles and methods of the Red International of Labor Unions, of which the Russian trade union movement is the dominating element. The continental trade unions have had considerable experience with the destructive tactics of the Moscow reds and want nothing to do with them.

At the recent meeting of the general council of the Amsterdam International the British delegates undertook to force through a resolution making an immediate and unconditional trade union unity with Russia imperative. The council defeated the motion and declared that they would consider the admission of the Russians for membership when they "expressed a desire to this effect," which is the usual manner of signifying the principles and methods of the Amsterdam International.

The Russians, who evidently desire to get into the Amsterdam International to destroy it, did not make the application for membership. Thereupon the general council of the British trade union congress invited the Russian trade union movement to send delegates to London to consider "international labor unity" and the methods to achieve it.

It is not expected that the coming general council of the International Federation of Trade Unions will surrender to the Moscow Reds, even at the request of the London "unity" conference.

167,570 LOSE JOBS; DIVIDENDS RAISED

New York, May 2.—The industrial insecurity of railroad workers is apparent in figures relative to the decrease in railroad employes in 1923 compared with 1920, made public by the committee on public relations of the southern railroads.

Basing its figures on the annual report of the Interstate Commerce Commission, the committee states that in 1920 the average number of employes on Class 1 steam railroads decreased from 2,059,220 to 1,855,280 in 1923, a reduction of 167,570 in the working force.

To this the family, these lay-offs mean that 837,850 persons were thrown into economic insecurity and many of these families lives ruined by the firing process. The discharges were one of the inevitable by-products of the consolidation of labor and substitution of larger cars and locomotives for those of smaller capacity.

There is another reason. The dive to railroad stockholders was small in 1920, amounting to only $271,731,669, while in 1923 it was raised $97,513,229, an increase of $25,782,560. A considerable portion of the dividend boost was made possible by savings resulting from discharging 167,570 men and coercing those who remain doing extra work.

But what is a little matter like 167,570 workers thrown into the army of the unemployed with the consequent suffering for themselves and their families, when it is a question of paying the already stuffed pockets of the railroad magnates with $25,000,000 more?

ORGANIZED LABOR WINS COMPENSATION

Adelaide, South Australia, Australia, May 2.—The new workmen's compensation act of South Australia embraces within its provisions employes of every class, including domestic servants, clerks and pastoral and rural workers—all of whom were prior wholly or partially excluded by the former act.

The minimum amount payable to dependents in the event of the death of a workman has been increased from 200 pounds to 400 pounds and the maximum from 600 pounds to 800 pounds.

The weekly compensation payment has been increased by adding to 50 per cent of the workmen's average weekly earnings the sum of 7 shillings 6 pence for each child who is dependent or mainly dependent.

The amendments were demanded by the organized labor movement of South Australia.

SHIP-OWNING CAPITALISTS WANT PATERNALISM MASKED AS SUBSIDY

Washington, May 2.—The determination of the shipping interests to "induce" the treasury for a few hundred million dollars a year in the form of a ship subsidy has been revealed by Senator John J. Pershing's approval of government assistance for the American merchant marine.

General Pershing recently made a trip to South America. He returned impressed with the large export field and the desire of manufacturers of the United States, and became a convert to the theory that a privately owned American marine subsidized by the government will be necessary to enable United States manufacturers to realize on the profit opportunities offered in South America.

Bert E. Haney, a member of the U. S. shipping board, is also reported as favoring a subsidy.

It is said that President Coolidge's mind is "open" on the subject of government paternalism applied to the capitalists who own the merchant marine but claims they can not make it pay and want to make up the difference by digging into the public treasury and taking out large amounts of the people's money placed there by taxation.

Shipping capitalists are among the outstanding denouncers of paternalism when it is proposed in measures that will benefit the people. But paternalism does not get objected to their own requirements has a great attraction for them.

Time after time the government to do something exclusively for them they simply perspire with contentment.

Permit them to thrust their capacious paws into the public treasury and the cry of "hands off" from government for their private welfare and they manifest no hostility against having their "rugged individualism" and "initiative" undermined by "governmental paternalism."

Last week the American steamship owners' association is now engaged in drawing up a subsidy plan for submission to President Coolidge by which millions of dollars of United States funds would be turned over to the American "rugged individualists" investments on a higher dividend basis.

Congress has never enacted a ship subsidy law. The ship owners' combine attempted to put one over during the Harding administration. It was opposed by organized labor and the U. S. Senate killed it by a drastic application of the free and unlimited debate "rule" which Vice President Dawes declares he is going to abolish.

STEEL COMPANIES' BIG WAR PROFITS

Washington, May 2.—American steel workers, in their struggle for a share of wealth accumulation during the world war, according to figures on the profits of the steel industry, recently made public by the Federal Trade Commission.

The figures show that the average earnings of the steel companies were 7.5 per cent of the investment in 1915, 21.7 per cent in 1916, 28.2 per cent in 1918, with a four-year average of 20.2 per cent.

The commission adds that during 1917 and 1918 federal taxes took a large portion of these profits.

The commission points out, however, that the computation relative to the return on investment includes the aggregate amount of stocks, bonds and "surpus." By surplus is meant the amount accumulated from year to year after dividends have been paid on both preferred and common stock.

That is to say, the steel companies by means of low wages and long hours for the workers and high prices to the consumers take enormous profits to pay dividends and set aside large amounts of excess profits in the so-called "surplus."

Then they declare themselves entitled to an investment return on the surplus and the federal trade commission implies that it is a legitimate charge.

All of which means that the people of the United States are compelled to pay the steel companies prices high enough to pay dividends on bonds, and dividends on preferred and common stock, and, in addition, to provide an enormous surplus. Then they are required to pay an investment return on the surplus itself.

PRINTERS CELEBRATE 75TH ANNIVERSARY

New York, May 2.—Typographical Union No. 6 (Big Six) entertained eleven hundred guests, including union printers and their families, at a dinner in celebration of its seventy-fifth anniversary.

William Green and Frank Morrison, president and secretary of the American Federation of Labor, and James M. Lynch, president of the International Typographical Union, were among the speakers. Leon H. Rouse, president of No. 6, acted as toastmaster.

President Green paid a tribute to the work of Big Six and of the International Typographical Union. The local and international unions had made life livable for the union printer, he said.